



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,931	01/24/2002	Ingo Schuering	449122010600	2998
25227	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD SUITE 300 MCLEAN, VA 22102			ELKASSABGI, HEBA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2834	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/936,931	SCHUERING, INGO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Heba Elkassabgi	2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3-4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

On Thursday, August 19, 2004 Examiner Elkassabgi telephoned Mr. Kevin Spivak for clarification in regards to in independent claims 1 and 6 the claimed subject matter of the "end points" is a grammatical error. As disclosed in applicant's priority application (WO 00/57537) and applicants specification that the "end points" should be "end plates". The Examiner and Applicants representative agreed that the correct limitation should be "end plates"; the examiner will reexamine the claims based on the correction of the claim limitation. .

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

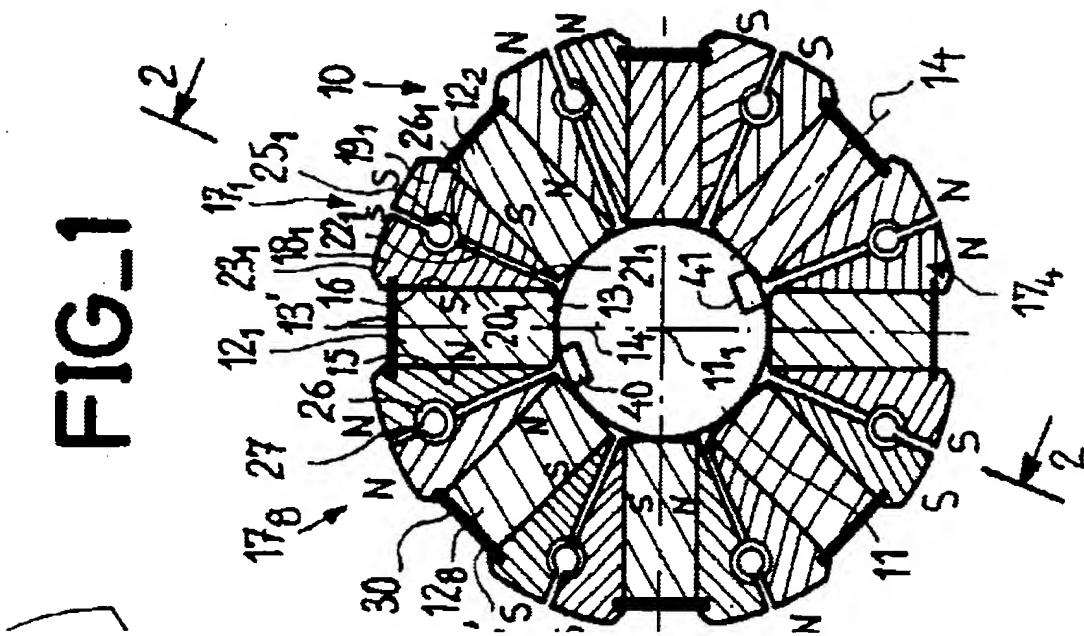
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to

be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epars (U.S. Patent 4700096) and further in view of Amemiya et al. (US Patent 4697114).

Epars discloses in figure #1 a multipole, permanent-magnet rotor (10) for a rotating electrical machine, having permanent magnets (12₁, 12₂, 12₃, 12₄, 12₅, 12₆, 12₇, 12₈) designed to be flat in a magnetization direction and arranged radially with respect to a rotor axis in slot-like spaces between two yokes (17) fixed on a rotor body (10), wherein each yoke (17) is subdivided in a circumferential direction into two mutually adjacent half-yokes (17) which extend over half of one pole pitch (OPP), and the two half-yokes (18,19) of the two yokes (17) are arranged alongside one another and are connected by end points (30,plates) to form a pole element (OPP, as disclosed in previous office action), the pole element is fixed on the rotor body (10). However, Epars does not disclose the end plates over the rotor yokes.

FIG. 1

Amemiya et al. Disclose in figures 1 and 2 a permanent magnet motor having two adjacent yokes (12) of a permanent magnet rotor assembly having a permanent magnets (13) between adjacent yokes (12) with end plates (14 and 15) provided on the axially opposite ends of the yokes in order to restrict the movement of the permanent magnets (13).

Since Epars and Amemiya et al. are from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by one inventor would have been recognized in the pertinent art of the others.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the permanent magnet motor structure of Epars with the end shield of Amemiya et al. in order to restrict the movement of the permanent magnets.

In regards to claim 2, Epars discloses each of the two half-yokes (18,19) is fitted with permanent magnets (12₁,12₂,12₃,12₄,12₅,12₆,12₇,12₈) on a surface facing a slot-like intermediate space. In regards to claim 5, Epars further discloses the pole element (OPP) is subdivided into a number of partial pole elements (18,19) in an axial direction of the rotor (10). In regards to claim 7, the permanent magnets (12₁,12₂,12₃,12₄,12₅,12₆,12₇,12₈) are cuboid.

In regards to claim 6, though the product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by –process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process, *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695,698,227 USPQ 964,966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regards to claim 3 prior art does not disclose two half yokes of a pole element in an intermediate space filled with a material that is configured to expand under the influence of impregnation resin.

Claim 4 is allowed being dependent upon claim 3.

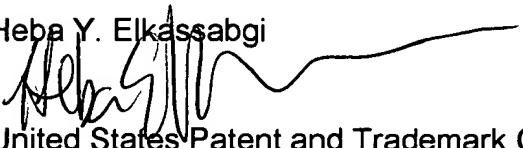
Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heba Elkassabgi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2023. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (571) 272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Heba Y. Elkassabgi



United States Patent and Trademark Office
Patent examiner
AU 2834
Class 310- Electrical Generator/Motor Structure
Class 290- Prime Mover Dynamo Plants



BURTON S. MULLINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER